



Carlsbad Conserves

Environmental Programs Newsletter • Fall 2009

Cool Weather Brings Water Saving Opportunities

Even during the rainy season, water conservation should be a way of life in Carlsbad. One hundred percent of Carlsbad's drinking water is imported from hundreds of miles away. Local rain may help plants, but most of the rainwater runs right into the ocean.

The best way to achieve the

greatest water savings is by reducing landscape irrigation. The region uses between 50 and 60 percent of its water outdoors. The cooler and wetter fall and winter months make saving water easier because soils stay moist longer and plants need less frequent watering. Following these tips will help conserve the region's most precious resource.

For more water saving tips, visit www.carlsbadca.gov/water

Making Auto Care Storm Water Friendly

Where and how you wash your car makes a difference. Most soap contains chemicals that harm aquatic life, fish and water quality. The soap, together with dirt, metals, grease and oil washed from your car, flows into nearby storm drains which run directly into local creeks, lagoons and the ocean.

Car Washing Tips At Home

- Wash your car over a permeable surface, such as gravel or grass.
- Use soap sparingly.
- Use a low flow hose nozzle with a trigger to save water.
- Pour your bucket of soapy water down the sink when you're done, not in the driveway or street.
- Avoid using engine and wheel cleaners or degreasers.

The best way to reduce pollution from car washing is to take your car to a commercial car wash. Most car washes treat and recycle the wash water.

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide commercial opportunities, recreation, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape.

Fall Weather Landscaping and Water Saving Tips

- Adjust sprinkler timers to reduce watering frequency.
- Turn off irrigation systems for a week to 10 days after a rainfall.
- Sign up for a **free** indoor/outdoor water survey by calling (760) 438-2722. A Carlsbad Municipal Water District water conservation specialist will perform an onsite evaluation.
- Consider replacing older automatic sprinkler systems with weather-based systems or smart timers that do not irrigate when it is not needed.
- Aerate compacted soil to increase water and air penetration. This reduces runoff and helps water and nutrients get to the roots.
- Apply mulch to prevent moisture evaporation and weed growth. Using mulch can reduce evaporation by as much as 30 percent.

**Environmental Hotline
(760) 602-4646**

www.carlsbadconserves.org

A publication from



**CITY OF
CARLSBAD**
Public Works

Environmental Programs

1635 Faraday Avenue • Carlsbad, CA 92008

Compost Bins Are Back for Carlsbad Residents

Through a contract with Solana Center for Environmental Innovation, the City of Carlsbad is offering worm and backyard compost bins at a greatly reduced cost for Carlsbad residents. The City helps pay for the compost bins to encourage local residents to take advantage of the many benefits of composting:

- Helps the environment by reducing what goes into landfills.
- Is the ultimate in "reuse," converting food scraps and other organic materials into high quality soil and fertilizer.
- Is easy, even for those without yards.

Unwanted Bulky Items



The City of Carlsbad offers its residents a way to dispose of unwanted bulky items such as furniture (couch, chair, dresser, cabinet, bookshelf, mattress) and appliances (toilet, washer, stove, sink).

Saturday, Nov. 7, 2009

Appointments accepted Oct. 19 - 26, 2009 ONLY

Saturday, Jan. 30, 2010

Appointments accepted Jan. 11 - 18, 2010 ONLY

Saturday, March 20, 2010

Appointments accepted March 1 - 8, 2010 ONLY

Recycle phone books in the green recycle crate with other paper!

Residents Have Two Choices

- The Smith & Hawken Biostack compost bin features a stackable design that allows for easy compost turning and harvesting.
- The Wiggly Wranch Worm Bin offers residents a vermicomposting bin for those who wish to compost food trimmings only, may not have room for a backyard compost bin, or live in an apartment or condo.



Smith & Hawken Biostack

Capacity: 12 cubic feet

Dimensions: 28" x 28" x 34" high

\$50 (\$129 retail value)



Wiggly Wranch Worm Bin

Capacity: 2 cubic feet

Dimensions: 16" x 23" x 25" high

\$40 (\$110 retail value)

**Supplies are limited.
Proof of residency is REQUIRED.**

Worm food can consist of used coffee filters and coffee grounds, tea bags, pasta, fruit and peels, eggshells, bread and crackers, nut shells, vegetables, cereal, corks, toothpicks, dust, flowers, cardboard and newspapers. They'll even eat toe nail clippings!



To learn how to compost or to purchase compost bins, please contact the Solana Center ROTline at (760) 436-7986, ext. 222 or email compost@solanacenter.org.

The Solana Center is located at 137 N. El Camino Real in Encinitas and is open for bin sales on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Keeping the Environment Clean

Pet Waste Disposal



- Carry a plastic bag when walking pets and be sure to pick up after them.
- Clean up pet waste in your yard frequently.

DISPOSAL OPTIONS

- Bury small quantities in your yard to decompose; be sure to keep pet waste away from vegetable gardens.
- Seal pet waste in a bag and place the bag in the trash.
- Flush pet waste down the toilet because it gets treated by a sewage treatment plant.



Pet waste is a nuisance in our neighborhoods. Pet waste is a health risk because it is full of bacteria that can make people sick. This bacteria gets washed into the storm drain and ends up in our creeks, lagoons and ocean. The bacteria ends up in shellfish living in these water bodies. People who eat those shellfish may get very sick.

Having a clean environment is of primary importance for our health and economy. Clean waterways provide commercial opportunities, recreation, fish habitat and add beauty to our landscape. YOU can help keep our creeks, lagoons and ocean clean by applying these pet waste disposal tips.

Thank you!

Keeping the Environment Clean

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